

ANA activates first armored battalion

Story and photos by
Spc. Steven Marroni
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — Nine Soviet-made, T-62 tanks, newly painted and bearing the flag of Afghanistan, stood on the Pol-e-Charki parade ground, surrounded by their crews, as the Afghan National Army activated its first armored battalion.

“It is an important step for the national army to have a tank battalion ready for combat,” Afghan Minister of Defense Marshal Fahim Khan said at Thursday’s ceremony.

This event marked the activation of the eighth ANA battalion. The seven pre-



Afghan National Army troops from the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade were officially activated Thursday. They are the ANA’s first armored battalion.

See **ARMOR**, Page A4

VTC brings a little bit of home to Afghanistan

By Cpl. Keith A. Kluwe
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, AFGHANISTAN — More than 200 soldiers deployed to Kandahar Air Field from Fort Bragg, N.C. had a face-to-face conversation with their spouses and families back home May 10 during private video teleconferences here.

The VTC was the first time, since 1st Brigade, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in December of last year, that most of the soldiers and paratroopers here were able to see their families in anything other than pictures.

Many newly married soldiers like Pfc. Daniel Sandoval, military police officer, 118th Military Police Company and Spc. Harold Pitts, a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter mechanic, E Troop, 1/17 Cavalry, Task Force “Sabre,” have spent more time deployed for training or operations than they have spent at home with their spouse.

“I’ve been married about a year,” said Sandoval, a Roswell, N.M. native. “My wife Athena was finishing her degree when we got married, so we’ve never been able to live together.”

Sandoval was worried that he would end up wasting the two-and-a-half minute video-phone call because he wouldn’t know what to say.

“I hope I say something worthwhile in the two-and-a-half minutes,” said Sandoval. “She’s sent me a lot of pictures, but (the VTC) was great. She looked great and I got to see her and tell her that I miss her. I can’t wait to go home.”

Pitts was lucky enough to spend eight months of his year-and-a-half long marriage with his wife Ashley. He married while he was in his Advanced Individual Training.

“I was very excited to see what she looked like, and she looked beautiful,” said Pitts, a native of Independence, Kan. “I know she has been busy. She works harder than I do, going to school full time and working part time.”

Pitts was hesitant to get into a deep conversation during his two-and-a-half minute call.

“I concentrated on telling her how much I loved her and missed her, how good she looked,” said Pitts. “She just encouraged me and told me she loved and missed me too, to hang in there for her.”

Neither Pitts or Sandoval have been told a definite date their replacements will arrive in Afghanistan, but both think it will happen some time after they have been here six months.

A great deal of planning and coordination went into bringing

See **VTC**, Page A4

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



A man walks past a restaurant and charred car in Casablanca after explosions tore through the area.

Bombs kill at least 20 in downtown Casablanca

CASABLANCA, Morocco — Five explosions, including three car bombs, rocked the heart of Casablanca on Friday night, killing at least 20 people and injuring several others, according to Morocco's interior minister.

Interior Minister Mustapha Sahel blamed international terrorists for the attacks and said some were committed by suicide bombers.

Three people were arrested in connection with the explosions, reported the country's official news agency, Maghreb Arab Presse.

Among the targets hit were those representing Belgian, Spanish and Jewish interests.

"This is part of the terror we're facing all over the world," said a spokesman for the northwestern African country's Interior Ministry.

No one has claimed responsibility for the blasts.

Thursday was the anniversary of the creation of Morocco's security forces, said Morocco TV journalist Mustapha Kelu, and many police officers and other law enforcement officials were on vacation.

The bombs went off about 9:30 p.m. [5:30 p.m. EDT] in different places in the city renowned for its Western way of life, the government spokesman said. Police and ambulances rushed to the scene as army helicopters hovered overhead.

"There were bodies mutilated all over the place," one witness said. "Everybody is very shocked."

Three booby-trapped cars exploded in front of the Belgian consulate, according to MAP, and another bomb exploded near Casa D'Espangne, a Spanish social club and restaurant. Both Belgium and Spain were allies of the United States and Britain in the war against Iraq.

Didier Seeuws, a spokesman for the Belgian Foreign Affairs Office, said one side of the consulate "was completely demolished." He said no one inside the building was killed, but two Moroccan guards died.

"There have been many deaths in the streets," he said.

Seeuws said it was unclear if the Belgian Consulate was the target or a popular restaurant near it. He said there had been no threats against the consulate.

"It's a big shock," he said.

A bomb was also reported near the Hotel Safir and the Cercle de l'Alliance Israelite.

A spokesman for the Conseil des Communautés Israelites du Maroc — a Jewish community organization — told CNN that a Jewish nightclub was one of the targets, but the club was empty at the time.

Weekend search for Peterson clues possible

SAN FRANCISCO — Authorities combed the bottom of San Francisco Bay again Friday looking for clues in the Laci Peterson case, more than a month after the bodies of Peterson and her unborn son washed ashore.

Modesto, Calif., police Capt. Greg Savelli said the search could continue through the weekend, according to a report by The Associated Press.

Police ended Friday's search just before 3 p.m. [6 p.m. EDT]. Authorities have searched the bay several times.

The pregnant Modesto woman disappeared December 24, resulting in a widespread search that included the bay. In early April, the bodies were found near the Berkeley Marina, where husband Scott Peterson said he launched his boat on a fishing trip the day he reported his wife missing.

Police arrested Scott Peterson on April 18 on charges of killing his pregnant wife and unborn son on December 23 or December 24. He is being held without bail and could face the death penalty if convicted.

Mom, soldier and Hopi Indian: 'She fought and died valiantly'

CNN — A gentle snow swept across Arizona's Painted Desert April 5, the same day the Pentagon announced the death of Pfc. Lori Piestewa.

The soldier, a mother of two believed to be the first American Indian woman ever killed in combat, was the pride of the Hopi Indians living in Tuba City, Ariz. In this tightknit town of 9,000, the unseasonable flurry signified Piestewa's spiritual journey home.

"In the Hopi belief, when one is deceased, they come back home. They visit the family, their community through the moisture," Hopi Tribal Chairman Wayne Taylor told reporters after the snowfall. "And this is what happened just a while ago. So I think we were blessed today."

Piestewa went down fighting in the March 23 ambush of the 507th Army Maintenance Unit near Nasiriyah, said Rep. Rick Renzi, R-Arizona, whose district includes Tuba City. Renzi said he spoke to two generals and a colonel who told him Piestewa was driving the truck that was transporting Pfc. Jessica Lynch and other soldiers.

Nine soldiers, including Piestewa, died in the battle and Lynch was taken prisoner. When Lynch was rescued from a Nasiriyah hospital April 1, Piestewa's body was among those found nearby by U.S. troops.

Bagram Gospel Service

Everyone is invited to join Staff Sgt. Frank King as he offers a gospel service 1400Z Sunday at the Enduring Faith Chapel.

Scriptures will be read from the King James Bible, there will be special music and prayer time.

Army engineers, Afghans build Jordanian DFAC



A U.S. Army engineer and several Afghan apprentice carpenters designed and built a dining area at the Jordanian Army Field Hospital in Masar-e Sharif, Afghanistan. The Jordanians provide medical assistance to over 650 Afghans each day with support from a forward logistics element of the Joint Logistics Command, Uzbekistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Spc. Nathan Dicks, 945th Engineer Detachment, Bismarck, N.D., and an Afghan apprentice carpenter add side walls to the new dining area.

Story and photos by
Spc. Travis Edwards
1st COSCOM PAO

MASAR-E SHARIF, Afghanistan — In an effort to maintain facilities at the Jordanian Army Field Hospital in Masar-e Sharif, U.S. Army engineers and Afghan apprentice carpenters demolished a condemned dining area May 13 and created a more permanent one in its place.

“We identified the dining area as a safety concern and dealt with it accordingly,” said Spc. Nathan Dicks, an Army reserve carpenter, 945th Engineer Detachment, Bismarck, N.D. “My team of Afghan apprentices and I tore down the old structure and began from scratch.”

The Afghan apprentices have been learning from the Army engineers the craft of car-

penetry since early 2003. The U.S. engineers provide tools and instructions to compliment the Afghan carpenters’ equipment and knowledge.

“The new facility will be 20 feet by 32 feet. It will have side walls and be able to be swept out and washed off. It is an outside dining area where people can eat their food,” said Dicks.

“It is very good for us to have safe structures to eat and live in,” said Col. Khaled Al Qudah, director of Jordanian forces at Masar-e Sharif. “We appreciate all the hard work the Americans have done, especially Spc. Dicks and his carpenters.”

A design is drawn up by Dicks and finalized according to the amount of wood and building supplies available. The diagram is then passed to the workers who memorize their section of the job.

“We go out into the supply yard and get all the necessary equipment we’ll need for the project. If we need power tools we tow a generator into position and go from there,” said Dicks. “My carpenters are some of the most motivated men I have ever met.”

“They have learned the names of all the tools and several different phrases. I just point and they go to another section of the project and work on it. Together we are making this camp better each day,” said Dicks.

“The project lasted a day longer than planned due to a wind and rain storm,” said Dicks. “The carpenters did a great job and we executed the mission without any major problems. Everyone can rest assured the Jordanians now have a much sturdier and safer facility to eat in.”



Minister of Defense Marshal Fahim Khan speaks to the troops at the activation ceremony of the Afghan National Army's first armored battalion.

ARMOR, from Page A1

vious battalions were light infantry.

The 3rd Armored Battalion of the 3rd Brigade of the Central Corps of the Af-

ghan National Army were provided 44 tanks from existing inventory instead of relying on armor from other countries.

Maj. Gen. Karl Eikenberry, chief of the Office of Military Cooperation of Af-

ghanistan, said more specialty battalions will be seen, such as artillery and various support units.

"This marks an achievement in building a disciplined force with the motto 'one nation, one army'," Eikenberry said.

He pointed out this battalion was the first to benefit from a professional, dedicated officer's training course, provided by the French.

The British military conducted a noncommissioned officer course, and an ANA cadre trained the enlisted recruits.

Standing in green berets, in front of their tanks, scores of new soldiers graduated to take on the dedication of providing security and stability in their country.

"I applaud your commitment to building an army," Eikenberry said to the troops.

"Your sons and daughters will thank you for your sacrifices and commitment to their future," he said.

VTC, from Page A1

the video teleconferences to completion, according to Maj. Jeffrey Watters, the Task Force Devil chaplain.

"The planning started at that week in the deployment that soldiers 'hitting the wall' Families were starting to disintegrate. We have four or five divorces," said Watters, a native of Tennessee. "We wanted to teach a class on marriage relationships. Whatever we taught here to the soldiers, we wanted their spouses to have the same class. It would give them skills they could fall back on."

During three separate hour-long seminars, Dr. Gary Chapman, a well known author and relationship counselor, spoke to soldiers and their spouses via the video teleconference. He spoke about communication skills, and all the problems related to miscommunications.

"I think the seminar and the VTC were good for the marriage itself. The seminar by Dr. Gary Chapman was something a lot of married people in the military need to hear," Pitts said. "I think it is very important that husband and wife get to see and talk to each other. I know it raised my morale. It gave me a second wind for the rest of the deployment."

"When a soldier went in, he looked kind of tired," Watters said. "When he came out it was a whole different story. He had a huge smile on his face. I was like 'wow, that's worth a million bucks. You can't pay for that.'"

At least one soldier here got to see their new baby for the first time, according to Watters. Other soldiers will just draw strength from the video phone calls.

"The VTC gave me some motivation. It showed me what I



Photo by Cpl. Keith A. Kluwe, 109th MPAD

Pfc. Daniel Sandoval waves to his wife Anthena during a video teleconference May 10. More than 200 soldiers assigned to Kandahar Air Field were able to use the video phone to talk to their spouses and families.

was working for, serving for," Sandoval said. "I could have used another 30 minutes with her."

Watters has started planning for a reunion brief and video teleconference, but doesn't know it will be able to be put together in time. He said this VTC wouldn't have been possible without support from Tamsco who set up all the equipment at Fort Bragg and here in Kandahar. Tamsco also donated all the satellite time to the soldiers here.

The seminars and video teleconferences were held at Bagram Air Base Sunday for soldiers there deployed from Fort Bragg.

FREEDOM'S VOICES

Armed Forces Day frees amnesty

Just my Opinion

Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke
11th Public Affairs
Detachment



May 17 is Armed Forces Day, which is a day to recognize servicemen and women guarding freedom. It has been celebrated for more than 53 years with parades, air shows, open houses and receptions.

This is great, but instead of one day, people should remember why there is a military and what they are doing every day.

As you read this, several wars are taking place across the world.

My generation's war started that terrible first week of the post-9/11 era.

Yes, there was a lot of people driving across country to get to New York to help out in anyway they could, but my hometown experience was different.

Seniors were talking about moving to Canada to escape "the draft to come." It upset me as a person who wanted only to get to Basic Combat Training nine months early.

Now here I am, a soldier in Afghanistan, and the farthest I have been away from home. I really can't say what I will feel when I get back to the U.S., but I do now know what a typical Afghan's day is like. But I still can't imagine what it would be like growing up in a minefield.

If it weren't for soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen deploying and seeing the death, destruction and inhumanity of a world we aren't used to, we probably wouldn't have to listen to their war stories to appreciate our blessings we presently hold.

If everybody would start the day off with counting their freedoms, I think they wouldn't have to go to third world countries to appreciate what they have in the states.

Former Secretary of Defense, honorable Melvin Laird said it best in 1970.

"Our servicemen and women should bear the burden of defense as one of the responsibilities of citizenship in this free country.

"Having participated in protecting our rights and having met oppression on the battlegrounds of the world, they are able to appreciate and savor the blessings of citizenship in the country they serve."

I am not asking for America to change the way it runs, I only want its citizens to realize just what they have.

If people don't realize the world of freedom they live in, what do they think they live in?

But, then again I am contradicting myself. What we are fighting for is freedoms like choosing the military as a career.

The bottom line: realize what you have for it is precious and may cease.

STREET TALK

Where do you see the people of Afghanistan five years from now?



"It depends on them. If they believe in our coalition intentions, they will have a lot of progress."

Maj. Dorin Blaiu
Commander, Romanian
812th Infantry Battalion

"Still struggling. If we can help them to know basic stuff like cleaning their water, it will improve."

Spc. Catherine Fix
313th MI,
Fort Bragg, N.C.



"Pretty much at the same level of poverty. Maybe in two generations, we can talk about a varied life."

Maj. Cristian Trifu
CJTF-180



"It don't see them living any differently, but see them living in a little less fear and being a little less scared. Maybe there will be more cities and more education."

Sgt. Ryan Wahler
Logistics Task Force
Fort Bragg, N.C.



Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

CJTF-180 Commander —

Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill

CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —

Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England

Public Affairs Officer —

Col. Rodney Davis

Public Affairs Sergeant Major —

Sgt. Maj. Harrison Sarels

Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 11th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Commander — Maj. William Mott

NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

Editor — Sgt. W. Cullen James

Journalists — Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw,

Pfc. Christina Carde, Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke

In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of *Freedom Watch* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 11th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

Visit the CENTCOM Web site at www.centcom.mil and click on the Freedom Watch or Forces in Afghanistan link at the bottom of the page to get the latest editions of the *Freedom Watch*. To be added to the daily distribution list email william.james@us.army.mil

Entertainment

May 17, 2003

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

Bagram then and now: A 10th Mountain view

Pfc. Christina Carde

11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — As the redeployment clock winds down for soldiers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom's 3rd rotation, time begins once again for the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., as they begin their takeover of Combined Joint Task Force-180.

For one 10th Mountain first sergeant, May 7 began his second tour in support of OEF, but to his surprise things are much different than what he remembered.

"When I stepped off the plane earlier this month, all of the changes on post took me by surprise," said 1st Sgt. William Sharp, Headquarters and Headquarters Company first sergeant, 10th Mountain Division. "I expected some things would have changed since my first deployment in November 2001, but what I anticipated was nothing close to what I saw when I arrived."

As Sharp walked around Bagram Air Base for the first time in almost a year, he began to recall the way life here during OEF's first rotation.

"This building we're sitting in right now (Motel 6) had no roof and was full of trash and dirt," said Sharp. "Disney Drive was no

more than a path with enough room for one vehicle to pass at a time, not to mention it was open to everyone — soldiers and Afghans alike."

Land mines were another issue.

"Now you may hear a blast every couple of days whereas then it was every couple of hours," Sharp added.

"The gravel parking lots and hard-ball roads didn't exist then either," he said. "Plane wreckage and remnants of tanks used to fill the areas where there are now rocks and pavement."

In addition to dilapidated buildings and security issues, the post-facilities were anything but morale-boosting.

"The latrines were basically buckets surrounded by wooden stalls where the waste was burned after use and we urinated in pipes protruding from the ground," said Sharp. "There was no gym, barbershop or MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) building, and the PX (Post Exchange) was a trailer where you looked inside and bought whatever was available."

Today, there are more than 8,000 U.S. and coalition troops on Bagram making it the largest military base in the country. According to Sharp, this was not always the case.

"Between the months of November and

December 2001, there were only about 200 U.S. troops on Bagram. That's security forces, military police, logistics — everyone," said Sharp. "We were responsible for pulling guard, food preparation, details and everything else that is now handled by (Kellogg) Brown and Root, and local contractors. This was in addition to accomplishing our own missions. Things were definitely more stressful then."

Due to the new improvements made on Bagram in the past 10 months, Sharp said his job of preparing for the main body's arrival will be a lot easier.

"I am part of a 25-man advanced party who is here to ensure a smooth transition for the main body who will start arriving within the next week," said Sharp. "Although we have operated in austere conditions before, the presence of a new PX, coffee shop and Brown and Root DFACs will make life much sweeter."

According to Sharp, comparing Bagram now to what it was before is like comparing night and day.

"This base has improved 100 percent," said Sharp. "I would have never thought so many improvements could have been made in such a short amount of time. 10th Mountain is in for a surprise when they arrive."



Not quite two years ago, Motel 6 was husk of a building, with much work left to be done. Today the building houses Combined Joint Task Force-180's Headquarters company, finance, personnel and other services.



Music Notes (Compiled from MTV.com)



Rusty Waters

Jam Master Jay's nephew, Boe Skagz, shot in Queens

Boe Skagz, a member of rap group Rusty Waters and the nephew of late hip-hop pioneer Jam Master Jay, was shot in the leg around 8 p.m. on Wednesday in Queens, New York.

According to a Queens police detective, Skagz told authorities that a boy in his late teens came out of nowhere, fired three shots at him and ran away.

One bullet hit Skagz in the calf, and police said it appears he was shot from behind.

No one has been arrested, and Skagz told police he did not recognize the assailant.

The rapper was treated at a Queens hospital on Wednesday and released on Thursday.

Authorities do not believe the incident is linked to the murder of Jam Master Jay, who was fatally shot in his Queens recording studio on October 30.

Jam Master Jay had been producing tracks for Rusty Waters' debut album on the day of his death, and Skagz had briefly stepped out of the studio when his uncle was killed.

According to a representative for Rusty Waters, the album, which had been due in March, has been indefinitely shelved by Virgin Records. Skagz could not be reached for comment.

Britney Spears hooking up with J. Lo's ex

Britney Spears is hooking up with J. Lo's ex and she wants you to watch.

It's not as salacious as it sounds, but as the singer gets closer to finishing up her fourth album, she's also keeping an eye on how she's going to promote it.

With a fall tour in mind, Spears is lining up her crew, dancers and, of course, that ever-essential choreographer.

But after years of working with wunderkind Wade Robson, Spears is trading him in for the fancy footwork of Cris Judd, a source close to the singer told MTV News.

Judd may be best known for his nine-month marriage to Jennifer Lopez, but he's got an impressive and lengthy dance résumé to boot, having worked with Michael Jackson, Diana Ross, Usher and Brian Setzer.

Spears' spokesperson would only say that they're "in talks" with Judd "about a variety of projects" and emphasized that nothing is confirmed.

Jay-Z, P. Diddy ditch the suits and ties, get grimy in 'La-La-La' video

NEW YORK — The set of Jay-Z's "La-La-La (Excuse Me Again)" clip at the Metropolitan Pavilion Wednesday night was inspired by Miami's posh hot spot B.E.D. but looked more like a king's lair.

Like B.E.D., there were no chairs or



Jay-Z

tables for the club scene, just huge beds with Jay and Roc family members Memphis Bleek, Twista, Beanie Sigel, Kanye West and Young Chris mingling with about 20 girls.

They were eating grapes, drinking liquor and moving to the beat.

"Memph Bleek, smoke some of that la, la, la,/ Beanie Sigel, Desert Eagle, the 45/ It's the Roc, please sing our lullaby," said Jay, his verse filling the room as he lip-synced the lyrics.

"[For] the first 'Excuse Me Miss,' what Little X did was a dope video," said "Excuse Me Again" director Chris Robinson early in the evening.

"This is like part two. This one is a little more street, a little more disrespectful.

'Excuse Me Miss' was beautiful, classy suit and ties. This one is a grimy level. It's a little bit more Brooklyn, a little bit more Harlem."

"La-La-La" is the lead single off of the upcoming "Bad Boys II" soundtrack, which is being put out by Jay's good friend, P. Diddy.

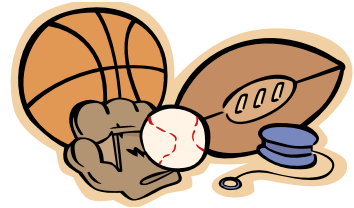
Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1630Z at the MWR building: Cool Jazz and Blues night.

Tomorrow's movie was unavailable at press time.

Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



J.D. Drew hit a mammoth shot in the fifth inning.

Drew hits one of longest HRs ever at Busch

ST. LOUIS — Ignoring a sore knee and ailing back, J.D. Drew hit one of the longest home runs ever at Busch Stadium.

Drew's mammoth two-run shot off the top of the right-field video board helped the St. Louis Cardinals end the Chicago Cubs' five-game winning streak with a 7-4 victory Friday night.

"It feels good to hit them like that," Drew said. "You never know where they're going to end up and it doesn't really matter once they go over, but it makes it interesting for everybody else, I guess."

Woody Williams (5-0) went eight innings for the Cardinals, who won for only the third time in 10 games. But they're 9-1 the last two seasons at home against the Cubs.

Chicago manager Dusty Baker let starter Matt Clement (2-5) bat in the sixth with runners at the corners even though he'd thrown 96 pitches and was trailing 5-4 — Cubs relievers threw 10 innings in a 17-inning victory over the Brewers on Thursday.

Clement gave up a two-run single to Fernando Vina in the bottom of the sixth, and the Cardinals held on in the opener of a four-game series. Vina was 3-for-3 with three RBI and two runs scored.

"I needed some innings or else I'm doomed for tomorrow and the next day and the next day," Baker said. "Really, I had only two semi-fresh guys out there in (Mike) Remlinger and the kid, (Matt) Wellemeyer."

Stress fracture in right hand to sideline first baseman

NEW YORK — New York Yankees first baseman Nick Johnson will miss four-to-six weeks with a stress fracture in his right hand, the latest injury in his young career.

"It's very frustrating," Johnson said before Friday's game against the Texas Rangers. "I thought I would be back in a couple of days. That's not the case. It's going to be awhile. I'm just going to try to get it right."

Johnson said he hurt himself on a foul ball in the ninth inning

Wednesday night. He then grounded out, ending a loss to the Angels. Johnson pulled himself out of Thursday's game and had tests Friday, which showed a stress fracture in the third metacarpal bone in his right hand. He will be placed on the 15-day disabled list.

"He's down. No question he's down," manager Joe Torre said. "He was pretty excited with how he was helping us."

The 24-year-old Johnson has been slowed by hand and wrist injuries in recent years.

He missed time in spring training because of a sprained left thumb and was on the disabled list last August with a sprained left wrist. In 2000, Johnson was sidelined for the whole season because of an injured right hand.

"I'm pretty upset," he said. "It's part of the game. I'm going to try to strengthen my hand and really concentrate on it. It's going to be my main concern."

Johnson is hitting .308 with five home runs and 18 RBI, and leads the AL with 33 walks. He's made 23 starts at first base and 10 at designated hitter.

"It's frustrating because he has so much ability," general manager Brian Cashman said. "He's obviously shown to this point this year what he's capable of doing."

Todd Zeile took Johnson's place at first base on Friday night against the Angels. It was Zeile's second start of the season at first base, and slumping Jason Giambi remained as the DH.

Giambi could return to the field Saturday and Zeile and Bubba Trammell will share the DH role.

Reliever sent to Double-A to make room for Lugo

BALTIMORE — Reliever John Rocker was sent back to the minors Friday after two poor outings, with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays optioning the left-hander to Double-A Orlando to clear a roster spot for shortstop Julio Lugo.

Rocker was called up from Orlando on May 9. He faced eight batters and six of them reached base, three on walks. Overall, he gave up one run in one inning.

Lugo was signed Thursday after being released by the Houston Astros. He was Houston's opening day shortstop and batted .246 with no homers and two RBI in 21 games before being released May 9.

Tampa Bay also recalled right-hander Brandon Backe from Triple-A Durham and sent shortstop Antonio Perez to Orlando.

Backe was 1-0 with a 3.86 ERA with Durham. Perez was 1-for-3 in two games with Tampa Bay.

SPORTS, from Page B3

Vizquel, Burks help put an end to Mulder's streak

CLEVELAND — Omar Vizquel and Ellis Burks showed their young teammates what it takes to beat a top pitcher.

Vizquel's speed and Burks' clutch hitting gave the Cleveland Indians a 3-2 win over the Oakland Athletics on Friday night and halted Mark Mulder's five-game winning streak.

The Indians handed Mulder (6-2) his first loss since April 14.

"Omar was the star of this game," said Burks, who tied it with a two-run homer in the sixth inning and singled home Vizquel with the go-ahead run.

Vizquel lined a two-out single to center in the eighth with the score tied at 2. He stole second on the first pitch to Burks and scored when the Indians' designated hitter lined a single off the glove of diving first baseman Scott Hatteberg.

Vizquel said he figured that was the left-hander's mind-set on the mound.

X-rays were inconclusive

SAN FRANCISCO — New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza left Friday night's game in the top of the first inning with a strained right groin after trying to avoid an inside pitch from San Francisco's Jason Schmidt.

Two innings later, Mets outfielder Roger Cedeno came out of the game because of dizziness.

Piazza, who was examined by Giants doctor Ken Akuzuki, reported feeling a pop in his groin and a lot of pain initially. X-rays were inconclusive.

Piazza will likely be placed on the 15-day disabled list, joining seven teammates on the DL.

Catcher Jason Phillips is expected to be recalled from Norfolk to replace Piazza. Phillips is batting .360 with four home runs and 20 RBI with the Tides.

Piazza jumped out of the way of a 2-2 pitch, then fell to the ground. He needed help walking off the field from two Mets trainers.

Piazza missed 10 of New York's first 42 games this season because of minor injuries and a four-game suspension. The All-Star missed a game on May 6 after having a mole removed from his abdomen.

Vance Wilson took over the at-bat and missed the next pitch for strike three. Piazza was charged with the strikeout.

Cedeno struck out in his only plate appearance. Tsuyoshi Shinjo replaced him in the outfield for the bottom of the third.

Solution from Friday's Duck! Crossword in the *Freedom Watch*

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)



By Mark Baker

Pvt. Murphy's Law

Kandahar chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 0630Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel service

Monday

- ❖ 1130Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel choir practice

Tuesday

- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox/Catholic Bible study
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- ❖ 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice

Bagram chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 0630Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel service

Monday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers

Tuesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- ❖ 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice
- ❖ 1500Z — Rosary and prayers

K2 chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0300Z- Liturgical Service
- ❖ 0400,0730,1130Z-General Protestant Service
- ❖ 0530Z-Roman Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1230Z-Latter Day Saints

Monday

- ❖ 0230Z-Devotions and Prayer
- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass

Tuesday

- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Biblestudy

Wednesday

- ❖ 0230Z-Devotions and Prayer
- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Midweek Praise Service

Thursday

- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass

Friday

- ❖ 1400Z-Jewish Service
- ❖ 0230Z-Devotions and Prayer
- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1400Z-Biblestudy

Saturday

- ❖ 0400Z-Jewish Service
- ❖ 1230Z-Catholic Mass

CJCMOTF chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0630Z — Nondenominational service













Tuesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Catholic service (every other Tuesday)

Wednesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study



	Bagram	K2	Kabul	KAF
W Today	 Hi — 86F Lo — 50F	 Hi — 86F Lo — 52F	 Hi — 81F Lo — 48F	 Hi — 95F Lo — 61F
e Sunday	 Hi — 81F Lo — 48F	 Hi — 82F Lo — 51F	 Hi — 77F Lo — 46F	 Hi — 95F Lo — 61F
a Monday	 Hi — 77F Lo — 48F	 Hi — 89F Lo — 52F	 Hi — 73F Lo — 45F	 Hi — 93F Lo — 59F

KMTC chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0430Z — Protestant Service
- ❖ 0530Z — Roman Catholic Mass/Eucharist
- ❖ 0630Z — Latter Day Saints
- ❖ 1630Z — Protestant Service

Wednesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Bible Study

Friday

- ❖ 1530Z — Thank God It's Friday fellowship and singing

All events are held in FOB195 Chapel/Conference Room area.